

## The Professional Criminal Class

Taking the State wherever found, one sees no way to differentiate its administrators and beneficiaries from those of a professional criminal class.—Albert Jay Nock.

THE evidence is all there; over 400 pages of it, about 150,000 words. When you have taken in all of *Pearl Harbor* (The Devon-Adair Company, New York, \$3.00), you cannot resist the conclusion that Franklin D. Roosevelt was intent on getting us into war with Japan and Germany. Of course, if you hold to the theory that war follows ineluctably from a general condition of poverty, you will say that Mr. Roosevelt was only incidental to the event, that another man in the same position would have followed a similar course. While that may be true, and the long-run view may relegate Mr. Roosevelt to a mote in the historical beam, the fact does remain that of his own volition he did things and said things and caused things to be done which precipitated the conflict. Mr. Morgenstern marshals a mountain of documentary evidence to prove it.

The immediate purpose of the book is to trace the "infamy" of December 7, 1941 to the White House. Inferentially, it shows that the commanders at Pearl Harbor were used as scapegoats for malfeasance and misfeasance at higher levels. When you finally put the book down, and have overcome your revulsion at the criminal inadequacy of the court cabal, your thoughts wander to a more inclusive subject: how is it that men who prove themselves so incompetent achieve their exalted position? Why do people applaud presidents and generals and admirals when the record shows them to be mediocrities, even in their own fields? Our common sense invents and applies to them the descriptive term, "snafu," yet we vote for them, cheer them, listen to their inanities over the air or in the auditorium, and in general make fools of ourselves in their presence. Is this an evidence of our own mental level? Or is it envy for their ability to "get away with it"?

Then, in retrospect, one wonders whether such revealing books as *Pearl Harbor* are worth the effort put into writing them. For a decade after 1918 such exposures of criminal incompetence and immorality came rolling off the press at a nauseating rate. We can expect the same this time. Will they prevent the launching of Atom War I? Did they prevent World War II? Roosevelt is gone and his gang is gradually being liquidated. Others will be on hand to duplicate a Pearl Harbor incident when the time is ripe. Right now—if we read history aright—things are being said and done and caused to be done which will lead to it.

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And win  
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And the  
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will run  
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And walk  
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of deceit;  
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